



# ENSURING DECENT DETENTION CONDITIONS

## VALUE

It is crucial to our national conscience that prison conditions do not violate the basic human rights of imprisoned people. We pride ourselves on being a nation of values and we can best demonstrate that by how we treat people in the most vulnerable situations – incarcerated people are certainly part of that group. And decent, rehabilitative prisons are not only a basic human right, but also central to the successful reintegration of people emerging from prison.

## PROBLEM

Yet, the conditions in some prisons are so abysmal and abusive that incarcerated people leave the facilities in far worse physical and emotional shape than when they entered. Solitary confinement, which is commonly used in American prisons, is one of the most egregious examples of this. Even short periods can cause mental health issues and severely impact imprisoned persons.

## SOLUTION

State governments should abolish the use of solitary confinement as a disciplinary measure for incarcerated people. It should further be completely banned for juveniles and individuals with mental, psychiatric, and/or physical health issues.

## ACTION

Urge your state policymakers to uphold the rights of everyone in our state by banning this outdated and dangerous practice.